

CHARLIE BAKER
Governor



KARYN POLITO
Lt. Governor

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Baker-Polito Administration Launches Economic Development Planning Council

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy to co-chair

BOSTON – Today, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito swore in members of the Economic Development Planning Council, which will provide input on and oversight of an economic development plan that will be presented to Governor Baker by the end of the year. Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy will serve as co-chairs of the council.

The new council brings a diversity of experience and perspective, including representation from every region of the Commonwealth. The council includes appointees of the House, Senate, relevant Executive Secretariats, and municipal leaders, along with small business owners and entrepreneurs, leaders from key business sectors and higher education.

“Our administration values the unique insight the members of the Economic Development Planning Council will bring under Lt. Governor Polito and Secretary Kennealy’s leadership to continue propelling Massachusetts’ economy forward,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “We remain committed to empowering local communities with the tools and funding needed to succeed and I look forward to reviewing the Council’s recommendations.”

“I am honored to co-chair this essential process and work with the exceptional and talented individuals appointed to the Council,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, co-chair of the Economic Development Planning Council**. “With Council members hailing from the Berkshires to the Cape, representing industries ranging from healthcare to financial services to manufacturing, from entrepreneurial ventures to large established companies, the composition of this Council will ensure Massachusetts benefits from a diversity of perspectives.”

“We are proud of the unprecedented strength of the Commonwealth’s economy, and are committed to ensuring all residents can share in continued economic growth,” **said Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy, co-chair of the Economic Development Planning Council.**

“This Council will embark on a robust planning process, engaging stakeholders across the state for valuable input on ways we enhance our partnership with local communities, educational institutions and training organizations, and businesses. I look forward to collaborating with stakeholders across the state, and am pleased to co-chair this council with Lt. Governor Polito.”

The council and process are guided by [Section 16G of Chapter 6A](#) of the Massachusetts General Laws, which requires a new economic development plan formulated and signed by the governor within the first year of a new administration. Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Polito and Secretary Kennealy, the council will embark on regional engagement sessions across the state to obtain public input in the development of a new economic development plan, which the council will approve and present to Governor Baker to guide economic policy over the next four years.

For a full list of Council members, click [here](#).

The locations and dates of the regional engagement sessions are listed below:

Wednesday, May 15	North East	2:30pm	Salem State University
Thursday, May 16	Pioneer Valley	9:30am	Springfield Technical Community College
Tuesday, May 21	Merrimack Valley	10:00am	Middlesex Community College
Thursday, May 23	South East	1:00pm	UMass Dartmouth
Tuesday, May 28	Greater Boston	1:30pm	Roxbury Community College
Thursday, May 30	Central	11:00am	Clark University
Tuesday, June 4	Cape & Islands	12:00pm	Chatham Community Center
Thursday, June 13	Berkshires	10:00am	MASS MoCA

Additional details on the regional engagement sessions, including session registration, are available [online](#).

At the onset of the Baker-Polito Administration’s first term in 2015, a similar process resulted in the plan entitled “Opportunities For All.” This plan formed the basis for the Administration’s economic development policy and led to the filing of economic development legislation in [2016](#) and [2018](#). Together with the Legislature, the resulting bills signed by Governor Baker collectively authorized more than \$2 billion toward growing the economy and promoting regional equity within Massachusetts.

The Administration’s economic development programs include the [MassWorks Infrastructure Program](#) to fund public infrastructure projects the drive job and housing growth, the [Site Readiness and Brownfields programs](#), to enable communities to leverage underutilized sites and prepare them to be shovel-ready for development, the [Collaborative Workspace](#) program to empower local entrepreneurship and innovation and the [Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative \(M2I2\)](#) to support cutting-edge research and development. The 2018 legislation authorized funding for the first ever standalone [Dredging Program](#) for our coastal communities, which supplements extensive funding for the [Seaport Economic Council](#), which the Administration reconstituted in 2015.

Since 2015, the Administration has invested \$1.5 billion in grants in over 300 communities, spurring the addition of thousands of jobs and housing across the Commonwealth.

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